

**WHERE CAN PRIVATE LANDOWNERS
GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM?**

If you are interested in becoming involved in the *Private Landowner Incentive Program* for the northern Idaho ground squirrel, contact the following Service employees.

They can walk you through the process, assess funding levels, and assist you in determining what measures may possibly be implemented on your lands to benefit the ground squirrels.

Dennis Mackey, (208) 378-5267
Rich Howard, (208) 378-5297

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Snake River Basin Office
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368
Boise, Idaho 83709

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Private Landowner Incentive Program



for the
**Northern Idaho
Ground Squirrel**

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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July · 1999



Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Spermophilus brunneus brunneus



The northern Idaho ground squirrel (Spermophilus brunneus brunneus), was proposed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act on March 23, 1998.

A final listing decision is expected to be made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service late summer, 1999. At high risk of extinction, this rare squirrel has suffered an 88% decline in population from 1985 to 1998.

Currently there are only 300-400 ground squirrels remaining in 36 sites.

This squirrel is found only in Idaho and inhabits about 20 miles of public and private lands north of Council, Idaho, near meadowlands that are surrounded by forests. The northern Idaho ground squirrel needs large quantities of grass seed, stems and other green leafy vegetation to store body energy for its eight-month hibernation from August through March. The major threat to the northern Idaho ground squirrel is habitat loss due to conifer invasion, fire suppression activities, and habitat modification and destruction.

Other potential threats include agricultural land conversion, urban development, recreational activities and naturally occurring events.

Private Landowner Incentive Program

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

IF THE SQUIRREL IS LISTED, WOULD YOU NEED HELP WITH CONSERVATION MEASURES?

A final decision to list the northern Idaho ground squirrel as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act could occur in the summer of 1999. We know that the squirrel needs help. Would *you* need help with conservation measures on your property if the species is listed?

THE PRIVATE LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM — HOW COULD IT HELP?

U.S. Wildlife Service (FWS) has developed and funded a program to encourage private landowners to conserve northern Idaho ground squirrels in Adams and Valley Counties, Idaho.

The primary goal of the *Private Landowner Incentive Program* is to provide long-term protection for currently occupied ground squirrel sites and to increase ground squirrel populations. To accomplish this goal, FWS will enter into agreements with you, an individual landowner. When the agreement is approved, you will receive two benefits:

- Monetary compensation for allowing ground squirrel conservation measures to be carried out on your property.
- A permit ensuring that, should the ground squirrel population expand beyond the site identified in the agreement, the landowner's land use activities would not be affected.

Ground squirrels will also benefit from conservation measures that may eventually help increase their numbers and remove them from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

HOW IS THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUNDED?

Funding for the program will come from:

- *The Endangered Species Act Private Landowner Incentive Program*
This program was initiated in 1999 to involve private landowners in endangered species conservation. The FWS office in Boise developed a proposal to obtain funding and received funds to go directly to private landowners if they are willing to implement conservation measures on their land.
- *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*
Through cooperative efforts between private landowners, FWS and other organizations, the *Partners Program* restores and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. Funding through this program is provided through the FWS to the landowner on a cost-share basis. Labor may be considered as some or all of the landowners' share of the funding.